

Remarks

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated June 15, 2005 and in view of the one-month extension of time is due on or before October 17, 2005 (as October 15, 2005 fell on a weekend).

Applicant has made a good-faith effort to correct the issues with the drawings, specification and claims noted in the Office Action.

Wier (USP 5,897,140) teaches the use of a traction cable with a precise cylindrical surface, this precise surface being coated by a material such as silicon thereby providing another "precise cylindrical outer contour" or surface. The silicon coating enhances the seal between his seal 22 and the cable. This curable coating material (silicon) according to Wier coats the radial outer region of the cable (see column 4, lines 9 – 13). Wier does not teach that his coating material 46 enters into the interstices of this cable, nor does Wier teach that his coating material 46 enters into the interstices of this cable for the purpose of increasing the bending stiffness of the cable.

It is clear Wier is concerned with creating an improved seal about a cable used in conjunction with a separate, hollow seal 22 (through which the cable travels). Seal 22 is received in a housing of a seat belt pretensioner. As is known in the art, a sufficient seal is required to prevent products of combustion created upon activation of a pyrotechnic device associated with the pretensioner.

Wier does address the interstices of the fibers of his cable in the context of teaching a "gooey" or plastic material (see column 4, lines 26 – 27). As best understood, Wier relates that if the coating 36 is not desired the soft material of the seal 22 can penetrate the interstices of the cable presumably as the cable 16 transversely loads this soft seal material.

In view of the above, it is respectfully urged Wier does not teach a coating material which when applied to a cable increases the stiffness of the cable. Further, Wier does not teach the use of a coating material that fills the spaces between fibers of the cable to increase the stiffness of the cable. Also Wier does not suggest that the untreated cable should be dipped in a material such as a solder, which by capillary action coats the cable and fills the intra-wires spaces. Wier also does not teach the use

of successive coat or layers of solder (or any other material) to change the physical characteristics of adjacent portions of the cable thereby changing the stiffness of these portions of the cable.

In view of the aforementioned, it is respectfully urged that the present application be reconsidered, the claims allowed, and the case passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



Markell Seitzman
Reg. No. 28,756

(586) 726-3905
(586) 726-4172 (fax)

Amendments to the Drawings:

In Figure 2 replace the solid lines of circles labeled by reference number 32 with dashed lines.

In Figure 4, delete numerals 26, 44, 62, 200 and 202 and lead lines.

In Figure 5 delete number 200a and its lead line.

In the Office Action, it was suggested that the left-hand occurrence of "24" should be "27." No change has been made as there is no left-hand occurrence of numeral "24" - it is "204" (the zero in the numeral was faint).

In Figure 6 delete number 27a and its lead line.

In Figure 7 change Cn to CN.

In Figure 9A the fixture 300 is now shown in solid line and the cable and cable portions more clearly shown (previously shown as a thin line).

In Figure 9B add 20a, 20b and 20c.

In Figure 10 change 304 to 204 (both occurrences).

In Figure 11A delete number 200.

In Figure 13 replace number 44 with 44a.